



MI-CW3809

Michigan Crop Weather

September 21, 2009

Another Dry Week

Seven days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 20, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.04 inch in the central Lower Peninsula to 0.47 inch in the northeast Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal in the east central, south central and southeast Lower Peninsula to 5 degrees above normal in the western Upper Peninsula. Early summer conditions continued to be experienced during the week. Warm and dry conditions have been conducive to crop development. A grower in the southwest reported, "Favorable weather continues to help the crop towards maturity. It would appear that crops have advanced enough that they will mature." However, the lack of moisture began to show visible signs of stress in some crops. A grower in the northwest commented, "The lack of moisture has increased the ripening of fruit and the leaves on the corn are curling."

Field Crops

Continued mild conditions have continued the advancement of crops. However, the lack of significant moisture has many areas at or near drought. **Wheat** planting continued. Wheat planting is expected to be in full swing by October 1. **Corn** was still about 2 weeks behind normal, but was advancing. Thus far, the amicable temperatures have helped to advance the crop, but the crop still needs time to mature. Some drying of the crop has begun due to the lack of moisture this summer. Corn for silage harvest was underway. **Soybeans** were drying down, and were turning color. In the southeast, were generally in growth stages ranging from R6 to R7. There were issues related to white mold, Sudden Death Syndrome, and soybean cyst nematode. Additionally, grasshoppers were abundant and causing pod damage. **Alfalfa** harvest continued, as the conditions were ideal for cutting, drying and baling. **Sugarbeet** harvest was underway. However, harvest was difficult due to hard, dry soils. Additionally, the crops were severely dehydrated. **Dry bean** advancement continued and harvest was underway. However, due to the dry weather, bean sizes were reported as small by some growers.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/20/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	17	45	38	0
Subsoil	10	37	52	1

Crop condition for week ending 09/20/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	3	10	27	50	10
Corn	4	12	31	41	12
Dry beans	3	10	30	40	17
Pasture	5	18	40	34	3
Soybeans	3	13	31	41	12

Fruit

Apple harvest for fresh and processed apples continued in the southwest. Sunscald symptoms were found on Gala apples; sooty blotch and flyspeck were present in some orchards. Early maturing Jonathon apple varieties were being picked for fresh market in the southeast. **Peach** harvest was winding down; picking of PF35 and PF27A continued. Heavy morning dews brought brown rot problems in some orchards; fungicide treatments should be applied as needed. **Pear** harvest continued. Pear scab, Fabraea leafspot and sooty blotch were the primary diseases of concern. **Plum** harvest was winding down. Jaclyn, Caroline and Polana fall **raspberry** and Chester, Triple Crown, Prime-Jan and Prime-Jim **blackberry** varieties were being picked. Wine **grapes** were in veraison in the northwest. Niagara grape harvest is expected to begin next week.

Vegetables

Farmers took advantage of the week's warm, dry conditions to accelerate the pace of vegetable harvest and seed cover crops on harvested fields. **Tomato** harvest continued with plants responding well to the nice weather. Cooler conditions earlier in the season allowed extended harvest on many fields. Early **pumpkin** harvest began in some fields, growers reported much of the crop required more time to mature. **Watermelon**, **eggplant**, and **sweet corn** harvest was winding down this week. **Pepper**, **yellow squash**, and **zucchini** harvest continued at a reduced pace. In the Grand Rapids area, **celery** harvest continued on schedule with planted acres at 70 percent harvested. Across the State, producers continued harvesting a variety of other vegetables including **potatoes**, **watermelon**, **cantaloup**, **cabbage**, **broccoli**, **cauliflower**, **onions**, **snap beans**, and **carrots**. Growers also continued to monitor fields for disease and pest pressures.

Crop progress for week ending 09/20/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	97	91	100	100
All hay, third cutting	66	63	76	82
All hay, fourth cutting	26	17	23	24
Apples, harvested	22	18	25	27
Corn, dough	89	81	96	97
Corn, dent	64	41	87	85
Corn silage, harvested	14	5	54	62
Dry beans, turning leaves	84	68	89	97
Dry beans, dropping leaves	69	37	73	85
Dry beans, harvested	22	NA	19	36
Peaches, harvested	92	82	92	95
Potatoes, harvested	36	32	37	38
Soybeans, turning leaves	65	27	86	79
Soybeans, dropping leaves	23	4	54	48
Sugarbeets, harvested	3	NA	3	2
Winter wheat, planted	8	3	3	10

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/20/09 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	79	43		1,744	1,789		0.11	0.11	1.46	11.38		
Marquette	79	30		1,618	1,693		0.11	0.11	1.46	12.91		
Stephenson	88	36		1,978	2,100		0.00	0.00	0.99	13.16		
Western UP	88	30	5	1,732	1,774	1,849	0.13	0.13	1.50	12.84	18.79	3.58
Cornell	77	37		1,815	1,997		0.14	0.14	0.90	12.33		
Sault St Marie	72	43		1,631	1,744		0.00	0.00	1.20	13.21		
Eastern UP	78	37	4	1,618	1,740	1,635	0.19	0.19	1.03	14.26	17.71	3.55
Beulah	80	42		2,025	2,274		0.28	0.28	2.05	18.14		
Lake City	84	33		1,933	2,141		0.88	0.88	1.75	18.57		
Old Mission	80	42		1,916	2,174		0.00	0.00	1.24	12.34		
Pellston	79	31		1,802	2,039		0.04	0.04	1.19	12.43		
Northwest	84	31	2	1,871	2,097	2,105	0.22	0.22	1.29	13.41	16.68	3.66
Alpena	80	34		1,910	2,130		0.04	0.04	2.41	19.06		
Houghton Lake	82	32		1,942	2,196		1.08	1.08	1.90	17.35		
Rogers City	80	34		1,865	2,102		0.42	0.42	1.33	21.17		
Northeast	83	32	0	1,900	2,130	2,037	0.47	0.47	1.79	18.02	16.67	3.47
Fremont	85	40		2,201	2,372		0.00	0.00	0.40	14.94		
Hart	81	41		2,081	2,262		0.05	0.05	1.19	16.87		
Muskegon	83	44		2,391	2,409		0.30	0.30	1.26	14.88		
West Central	85	36	2	2,184	2,315	2,298	0.08	0.08	0.82	16.27	16.91	3.19
Alma	84	41		2,235	2,487		0.10	0.10	1.08	19.18		
Big Rapids	84	38		2,079	2,350		0.02	0.02	1.29	20.49		
Central	84	37	1	2,162	2,403	2,371	0.04	0.04	0.94	18.05	17.74	3.09
Bad Axe	81	40		2,097	2,393		0.24	0.24	0.72	16.62		
Pigeon	83	36		2,059	2,302		0.00	0.00	0.27	16.65		
Saginaw	85	39		2,303	2,555		0.32	0.33	0.76	16.24		
Standish	85	34		2,050	2,256		0.32	0.32	1.25	15.55		
East Central	85	34	-1	2,087	2,399	2,375	0.23	0.23	0.75	17.06	15.87	2.70
Fennville	82	43		2,273	2,414		0.01	0.01	1.97	18.93		
Grand Rapids	84	43		2,521	2,752		0.31	0.35	1.99	21.62		
Holland	81	43		2,621	2,777		0.50	0.76	2.88	31.02		
South Bend, IN	82	42		2,657	2,837		0.00	0.07	1.94	21.73		
Watervliet	82	44		2,457	2,597		0.05	0.12	1.94	18.05		
Southwest	85	37	0	2,472	2,624	2,587	0.10	0.15	1.93	19.49	18.22	3.26
Belding	84	38		2,210	2,437		0.00	0.00	0.57	18.44		
Coldwater	85	39		2,525	2,602		0.03	0.17	1.05	17.83		
Lansing	83	42		2,376	2,657		0.17	0.17	2.30	24.45		
South Central	85	38	-1	2,329	2,572	2,541	0.13	0.29	1.56	20.14	18.01	2.79
Detroit	85	46		2,708	2,946		0.40	0.95	1.66	19.45		
Flint	82	37		2,327	2,692		0.29	0.29	0.82	22.43		
Romeo	80	41		2,336	2,550		0.18	1.22	2.30	18.21		
Tipton	83	44		2,414	2,644		0.43	1.40	3.08	18.54		
Toledo, OH	81	46		2,711	2,909		0.09	1.75	2.71	18.52		
Southeast	85	34	-1	2,438	2,715	2,540	0.19	0.92	2.11	17.96	17.28	2.43

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.